National Policy on Education and Programme of Action construction of school buildings will be the first charge on NREP and RLEGP funds. Those resources will be supplemented by other appropriate schemes. The Department of Rural Development has communicated to the State Governments that higher priority should be given to works which are required for infrastructure development under poverty all aviation programmes, particularly construction of primary school buildings in those revenue villages which have primary schools without buildings. Under RLEGP the construction of primary school buildings is to be taken up on a first priority in those revenue villages which have primary schools without buildings of their own. In addition the National Policy on Education envisages a phased drive symbolically called Operation Blackboard, to be undertaken with immediate effect to improve primary schools all over the country. The Programme of Action describes the measures to be undertaken under Operation Blackboard to ensure the provision of essential facilities in primary school—material facilities as well as learning equipment consisting of two reasonably large rooms that are usable in all weather, necessary toys & materials, blackboards, maps, charts and other learning materials. There was no provision of funds in 1986-87 as the Policy and Programme of Action were formulated after the budget was passed.

National Aids Control Strategy

982. SHRI J.P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a National AIDS Control Strategy;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to make it meaningful and result oriented;

(c) whether proposals for setting up surveillance centre submitted by State Governments are pending for clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when such proposals are likely to be cleared and the reasons for delay in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) On the first confirmed evidence of AIDS infection in 6 Indian prostitutes from Tamil Nadu in April, 1986, the Government of India, in consultation with the State Health authorities, drew up a National AIDS Control Strategy and a network of surveillance machinery all over the country. The following steps have been taken:

1. A cell has been established in the Directorate General of Health services to coordinate AIDS Control activity in the country.

2. All the centres have been provided with diagnostic reagents and equipment package have also been provided to most of them.

3. Restrictions have been imposed on import of blood and blood products without AIDS clearance certificates.

4. All the State Health authorities Hospitals/STD clinics have been alerted to look for AIDS.

5. All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood doners.

6. All the State Health authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilisation practices in hospitals and clinics and to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible.

7. Guidelines have been sent to all the State Health authorities for health care personnel.

8. All the mass media channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS, its nature, transmission and prevention.

9. Regarding foreign students, the following instructions have been issued:

(i) all the foreign students are to be screened (new and old admission).

(ii) the foreign students should subject themselves for health check to the nearest Civil Surgeon/CMOH/Suptd. of District Hospital for the purpose.

(c) and (d) Under the strategy, it has been proposed to set up one surveillance centre in each State. As present 27 surveillance centre are functioning. In addition, 4 referral centres have also been established. Depending upon the need, additional surveillance centres will be provided to the States.

Change in the Examination System

983. SHRI J.P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RECOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a research study conducted by the NCERT has suggested that continuous evaluation and frequent testing with feedback should form an integral part of the examination system in all the schools;

(b) whether all educationists and administrators have bitterly denounced the present examination system; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government in regard to the suggestions and recommendations made by the study team of the NCERT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RECOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The NCERT has not conducted any specific research study but has convened workshops and seminars to discuss the problem. The current thinking that continuous evaluation be built into the teaching-learning process is an integral part of the National Policy on Education. (Item 8.24). This is an outcome of the wide ranging discussion and deliberations among academicians and educational administrators all over the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. Educationists and Administrators have been of the opinion that the present system of examinations suffers from many defects.

(c) As reflected in the National Policy on Education 1986 and the Programme of Action, the Government feels the urgent need to reform the examination system. Specific measures to implement these ideas are contemplated over a period of time.

Surplus Employees of Indian Telephone Industries

984. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 13,000 employees of Indian Telephone Industries will be rendered surplus from its Bangalore and Rae Bareli units owing to freezing of orders by the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether these employees are likely to be absorbed; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) is at present producing crossbar and strowger electro-mechanical switching equipment at its Bangalore and Rae Bareli factories. These equipments have become obsolete and do not meet the quality and reliability requirements of a modern telecommunication netwowrk. They are also not proving cost effective.

Accordingly it has been proposed to phase out the electro-mechanical switching equipment production at Rae